



# THE MCGILL DAILY

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Essentially Flavourful since 1911

MONDAY, JANUARY 30, 1995

## Cheaper hepatitis B vaccine on its way

BY IDELLA STURINO

University students are among the highest risk group for hepatitis B, and prevention of this serious liver disease should come under the student health plan say student council representatives.

Since February of last year, Medical Students' Council Rep Roland Orfaly has been trying to lobby for action on the hepatitis B issue. He proposed that council extend the benefits of McGill's health plan to cover hepatitis B vaccinations, which promise complete immunity against the illness for several years. "Why let students get sick and then pay for something, and not pay for something to prevent sickness?" he asked.

Although a decision on Orfaly's proposal was postponed twice, the movement to get hepatitis B vaccinations covered by the health plan is growing. Since November, the Council Reps from the science, nursing, dentistry, and PIOT (Physical

and Occupational Therapy) faculties have been working with Orfaly to pressure Council into action.

"In Québec, 1/100 to 1/200 of the adult population is infected [with hepatitis B]," Orfaly stated. "The main age group acquiring hepatitis B is our age group."

Hepatitis B is the most serious form of five kinds of hepatitis. Like HIV, it is primarily contracted through sexual contact with an infected person, or by sharing blood. However, it is much more easily transmissible than HIV, and is also more prevalent. People who have multiple sexual partners (two or more within six months), people who work in the care of others (such as hospital or laboratory workers) and people who share needles are particularly at risk.

Symptoms include muscle pain and fatigue. The illness may lead to liver cancer and syrosis of the liver. There is no cure.



DAILY PHOTO BY KRISTA MUIR

Christos Calaritis, the science representative to Council said that, since "university aged" young adults tend to be very sexually active, "we are at very high risk for [hepatitis B]."

### What health plan?

Many students seem unaware that there even is a health plan, let alone what benefits it covers or how to obtain them. Currently, the health plan covers 90% of the cost of all prescription drugs and subsidizes the cost of birth control pills. It also covers the cost of a tutor if a student has been unable to attend classes for

seven days due to illness, and accidents incurred abroad.

Students pay a premium of \$43.80, included into their student services fee, to cover the health plan. Refunds can be given to students already covered under another insurance plan.

But since the plan was adopted in 1991, few students have been making claims. Calaritis says that "Seaboard Life is making a killing on us.... over a million dollars because students have not been taking advantage of the plan."

In fact, Seaboard Life is making such a killing off students that it has approached Council and told them that if benefits are not added to the plan or the number of claims increased, the amount of premiums paid will have to be lowered because the company is earning more money than it can justify.

Orfaly estimates that, based on

the amount students are paying in premiums and the amount they are receiving in claims, "students have lost in the last three years over 1.2 million dollars." He called this "a financial embarrassment to students."

Adding the hepatitis B vaccine to the health plan can be done with no extra cost to students. The regular cost of the shot is \$75. The Student Society Health Committee recommends students pay \$25, and Council subsidize the rest.

Changes to the health plan will be debated at the February 2nd Council meeting. But the Health Committee would like to see the issue put to a student referendum. "The Health Plan Committee's goal is to put it to referendum and let the students decide, not SSMU... we want the students to make the final decision," said Calaritis.

The decision of whether to go to referendum rests with Council.

## Hidden control of the corporate media



**WHAT THE NETWORKS DON'T WANT YOU TO SEE**

What do politicians, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and the Right to Lifers have in common? They can all buy spots on network television. So can everyone who wants you to buy their junk. Those who want to tell you about what we are doing to ourselves and our planet, however, are refused.

Recently, a Vancouver-based organization, The Media Foundation produced a series of "uncommercials" in an attempt to draw attention to issues of commercialization, television addiction, deforestation, the end of modern economics and the automobile age.

One of the ads criticizes commercial television in general, showing comatose figures splayed out in front of the tube. The people have UPC symbols tattooed on their heads. In the background, a voice announces, "the product is you."

The Media Foundation attempted to buy time on the CBC and US network affiliates in Boston, Los Angeles and New York. They managed to get their Autosaurus ad aired on the CBC's *Driver's Seat* only once before it was pulled. The other stations flatly refused to sell time for the ads.

Libby Hawkins, Manager of Commercial Clearance for WCBS, New York, intoned, "I challenge you to get any station in this town to air this message."

Art Moore, Program Director for WABC, New York quipped, "These are our airwaves and we will decide what to air and not air."

Kalle Lasn of The Media Foundation challenged this assumption. He said the airwaves do not actually belong to the broadcasters, but are leased out for five to seven years at a time to the stations.

Pamela Dill, Director of Press Relations for WCBS New York, refused to comment on the decision not to air the ads beyond saying, "That's information between Libby Hawkins and the client."

She explained that decisions on whether or not to air paid advertisements are made on a "case by case basis."

She admitted that there are set standards to which an ad must conform in order to be aired, but refused to say what they are.

Lasn said The Media Foundation is currently fighting the CBC's decision to pull the Autosaurus ad in front

of the Supreme Court of British Columbia.

According to Lasn, "It's a very simple Charter of Rights argument."

He added that he plans to take the American broadcasters to court on the similar grounds of a violation of Second Amendment (freedom of speech) rights. Dill would not comment on the legal aspects of the issue.

Although the networks have shunned the "social marketing messages", Lasn said his group is having quite a bit of success airing them on public access stations and a few independent stations.

"In the long term, I don't think North Americans will put up with a situation where they don't have a right to walk into their local television stations and plunk their money on the table and buy 30 seconds of air time.... This is a flagrant violation of our right to communicate on the most powerful communications medium of our time," said Lasn.

To get a copy of the uncommercials, call 1-800-663-1243.

BY AUBREY COHEN



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## COMMENT

# An open letter to the *Globe & Mail* and the *Montréal Gazette*

No thanks to your newspapers, the student demonstration against Lloyd's cuts was a success. In an age where student apathy is at a peak and disillusionment with government is high, thousands of students turned out on the streets to march.

Over 12,000 students, more than any other city, marched in Montréal, but the only angle which *The Gazette* could think of was that the strike "caused traffic chaos on downtown streets". (Well, what else was to be expected of a newspaper which ran the headline "Bouchard eats solid food, gives political orders" last year?)

Then there is CTV, which covered the strike — after seven minutes about the O.J. Simpson murder trial, followed by two or three other murder cases.

The *Globe & Mail's* coverage was especially compelling. No news story was written — only an editorial and photo — both of which left no doubt about the *Globe's* support of the federal reforms. The caption of the photo, which appeared on January 26, branded the strike a failure, pointing out that the majority of students did not participate.

We are curious to hear how you arrived at the conclusion that not striking amounted to support for the reforms. If you actually talked to students you would realize that although some did not march, this does not necessarily mean that they support the \$2.6 billion cut-backs to education.

We are also interested in knowing why you unquestioningly accepted (and printed) the dubious statistics showing low student support for the strike. No mention was made of the sample size (about two-hundred), or who paid for the poll (the federal government).

When was the last time this decade that 40,000 students across the country marched for anything, let alone against the

federal government?

In the January 24 *Globe* editorial, you said that there was nothing in the *Green Paper* that stated tuition fees would increase. Did you do any research for this editorial? From page 63 of the *Paper*: "It is true that replacing federal cash transfers would put upward pressure on tuition fees." In an October interview with the *Daily*, Lloyd Axworthy admitted that the plan would have the effect of raising tuition fees by at least \$1500.

The editorial also suggested that student unions were the main force fighting an "hysterical campaign" against the cuts. Obviously you made no visits to campuses across the country to find out who on campus organised the strike. At McGill, the Students for Social Justice were the main force behind the protest, and had the support of many professors and students. An informal poll of professors on campus and non-participants along the march route — even some held up in that traffic jam which the *Gazette* made so much of — were generally supportive.

On the subject of income-contingent loans, the *Globe* insists that these are not *really* loans, they are 'equity' which students will pay back as a share of their earnings.

On what information do you base this statement? Students with low incomes may have lower repayment rates, but this does not mean that their debt will disappear — it will simply accumulate interest while the student remains unemployed. In New Zealand, which the

*Paper* holds up as an ICLR success story, this situation has left people in debt for a lifetime.

In your clamour to portray students as spoiled and selfish, you forgot the women's organisations who supported the strike. These groups have reports available showing their conclusions that ICLRs are biased against women. (We did the research and found these reports. Call us and we'll fax them to you.)

And no, this is *not* about the "average worker" paying for the tuition fees of the "boss's kids", as the *Globe* absurdly suggests. It is very easy for a well-paid editorial board (who have probably already received their state-sponsored post-secondary education) to spout off about the selfishness of students.

This false dichotomy of "students" versus "the working class" denies the existence of many low-income students

now in university — students who may no longer be in university once the plan goes through. It also ignores the political links that have already been made between student and women's groups, anti-poverty organisations and unions.

According to the *Globe*, there is "no reason why students shouldn't ultimately repay the full amount". Last time we checked, Canada was a welfare state, and education, along with health-care, unemployment and shelter, were universal rights. Increasingly these rights are being retracted, and the *Globe* wants us to accept that this is "normal".

It is wrong to view post-secondary education as a luxury, with no benefits to society as a whole. It is even more serious for the *Globe* to pretend these cuts will not decrease the availability of education to lower-income Canadians.

In case you hadn't noticed, many students are aware of the debt issue. We know that cuts and reforms have to be made. After all, 44 per cent of the debt comes from tax exemptions to the wealthy and large corporations. Doesn't it concern you even a little that the government is willing to sacrifice education and financial security so that corporations won't leave the country?

Although the *Globe* and their colleagues at CTV and the *Gazette* didn't feel obligated to cover the student strike, the O.J. Simpson spectacle has appeared on almost a daily basis. When we need help covering that story we'll give you a call.

Josée Johnston, Melanie Newton, Anup Grewal



## Good work TO THE DAILY,

Okay, first of all, I *still* don't like your editorial style. All of you are way too sarcastic, and you tend to present complex issues as simply struggles between light and darkness.

But I was at the Axworthy protest on Wednesday, and I saw the *Daily* staff, especially Melanie Newton, working to keep things coordinated and relaxed. I have to admit, I was impressed.

The spirit of the demonstration was upbeat and energetic, without losing its focus on the importance of what was at stake, and for this some

credit should definitely go to the *Daily's* organisational efforts. Thanks.

JACOB PENDERGRABT  
U3 HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY  
OF MEDICINE

*Ed. note: We're glad we helped. But the real credit for the strike goes to the McGill Students For Social Justice. Thanks for supporting the march.*

## When do we pay? TO THE DAILY,

The Axworthy Reforms are very drastic and they also hurt a lot of people. These are complaints I have heard many times and I do sympathise. I feel, however, that there is another side to the story.

The Canadian government is \$443, 278 000 in debt as of 1991. To

pay it off, taxpayers pay an average of 47.15 per cent of their annual family income to the government. Is it not only fair, then, that in this prolonged recession, when the government is forced either to make cuts to the social programs or to raise the taxes further, that education be targeted?

Canadian students have been very privileged up to this point to have their education not only easily accessible, but also almost completely paid for, but such funding is not a right.

The financing for university comes not only from the students and the students' parents, but also from other taxpayers. These reforms don't increase the cost of education, they merely transfer the brunt of the cost onto those who are benefiting from it — the students.

These reforms aren't good for anyone, but they're necessary. All of those people who went out to protest the reforms (and, incidentally, deface school property with anti-Axworthy graffiti) would be better off thinking up proposals for ways the government might loan students money interest-free, or with a salary-related repayment program.

Canada's education system must be paid for. The only question is when — now, directly? or for the rest of our lives, through taxes?

MEGHAN WHITTAKER-VAN  
DUSEN  
U1 ARTS

*Ed note: Mark Marshall, your letter is way over the limit.*

The *Daily* welcomes all letters under 300 words. Add your name, program, year and phone number. Anonymity can be provided; talk to an editor beforehand. We print all letters provided they are not racist, sexist, homophobic or slanderous. Opinions can be expressed in the form of a Hype Park, no more than 500 words.

Come hear our rendition of

"The Tide  
is  
High"

at *Daily Staff Meeting*  
this Thursday at 17h.



# There's a Newt sheriff in town

## THE REPUBLICANS OFFER THEIR VERSION OF THE BIBLE

BY MATTHEW ROSENBERG



Not since 1954 has the Republican party been in full control of the US Congress. Led by Newt Gingrich, an ultra-conservative representative from Georgia, not one Republican incumbent was unseated, and over 75 new Republicans successfully challenged Democratic incumbents in last November's elections.

The 104th Congress was sworn in on January 5, 1995. In their first few weeks of power, the Republican party has discovered that governing is not as easy as it looks. They have had limited success in pursuing their conservative legislative agenda, outlined in "The Contract With America", and schisms in the conservative "revolution" are already beginning to appear.

After the election, Gingrich and other Republican leaders discussed the conservative "revolution" that had taken place and how it was going to put America back on the right track. The "Contract With America" would be the framework around which a new America, devoid of welfare "deadbeats" and "counter-culture" types, would be built.

Fortunately, things don't always work out as planned. Republicans have already begun to disagree about how pieces of key legislation are going to be shaped. Internal divisions have delayed passage of a proposal that would make it virtually impossible to raise taxes.

The Republican's 'supermajority'

proposal would stipulate that any tax increases would have to have the approval of three-fifths of the House, as opposed to the present simple majority required to raise taxes. Without the possibility of raising

**The "Contract With America" would be the framework around which a new America, devoid of welfare deadbeats and "counter-culture" types, would be built. America had become corrupt and lazy, and the Republicans were going to change it.**

taxes, America's grossly underfunded social programs will have little possibility of acquiring the funds they so desperately need.

If the Republicans succeed in increasing the defense budget and passing a balanced budget amendment without raising taxes, there will be even less money available to social programs. If passed, the 'supermajority' proposal will bring the Republicans one step closer to eliminating the welfare recipients they claim are sucking America dry. Evidently there is no place for the poor in Republican America.

### Wacky Republican values

There has also been considerable controversy over the proposed funding cuts for the National Endow-

ment for the Arts (NEA). Many conservative Republicans claim that the NEA's funds are being used to support art and artists that "normal" Americans find morally lacking. The NEA has supported gay photographer Robert Mapplethorpe and other controversial artists, that "normal" Americans deplore.

Also troubling are the Republican plans for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the regulatory commission that approves drugs. Many Republicans consider the FDA's tedious approval process a hindrance to the American pharmaceutical industry. They have charged that this approval process costs jobs and the lives of people who desperately need the drugs.

It is not entirely unfair to criticize the FDA's approval process as slow. In certain cases a faster process would benefit many ill people. Reforming the FDA is certainly a noble effort, but the Republican proposals are not only misguided, they are a threat to public health.

The Republicans have discussed eliminating the FDA and allowing the pharmaceutical industry to regulate itself. This from the same industry that created the Dalkon Shield—a birth control device which led to thousands of birth defects in the 1970's.

There has also been widespread disagreements among House Republicans over a bill that would limit the terms of members of the House. Presently, there are no limits on the number of terms they can serve. The new Republican members, many of whom

campaigning on the issue, are pushing for a bill that would limit members to six years in office. The older members, many of whom have been in office for a number of years, want to limit members to 12 years in the House. If a bill limiting members to six years were passed, most of the old guard—including Gingrich—would have to step down once their terms are up.

The struggle over term limits is a classic case of politicians serving their own self interest. It is hard to believe that a 'term limits bill' will ever pass in an atmosphere that fosters protection of one's self-interest.

### Respecting the "Nazi point of view"

Only days after her appointment

as the historian of the House of Representatives, Professor Christina Jeffries was forced to resign. At issue were comments she had made in 1986 regarding an educational program about the Nazi Holocaust. Jeffries objected to the program "Facing History and Ourselves" treatment of the Holocaust because it did not provide the views of the Nazis and the Ku Klux Klan.

The Nazi and Ku Klux Klan point of view on the Holocaust is fueled more by their ideological beliefs than by the evidence. Their view holds that there were no extermination camps; the Jews, gay men, Roma-Gypsies and others who were interned in concentration camps were well provided for; were put there as a security measure by the German government; and that those who were killed deserved it.

These blatantly discriminatory views have been propagated since the late 1940's by fascists who wished to rehabilitate the image of the Hitler and the Nazi's. If one could make the excesses of fascism disappear, then there would be a better chance for fascism to be accepted as a reasonable ideology.

That Jeffries considered the views of these groups suitable for the classroom leads one to question her personal views on fascism and the annihilation of over six million Jews and four million others.

Many House members of both parties were outraged when her statements were made public. Along with a number of Jewish groups, they called for her removal. On January 10 she was removed from her \$85,000 a year post.

What is even more disturbing than the official House historian holding ignorant and bigoted views is that Speaker Gingrich apparently knew of Professor Jeffries' comments,

## The threat wing ag



but chose to ignore them.

### The book deal

In December, HarperCollins, a publishing company owned by media tycoon Rupert Murdoch, announced that it was giving Gingrich a \$4.5 million advance on two books he was planning to write. Murdoch has billions of dollars at stake in telecommunications matters that are presently being reviewed by the government.

Murdoch's problem is an accusation by NBC that Fox Television is owned by Murdoch's News Corpo-



BY DEREK FUNG

# THE US AND CANADA: SEEING THE PARALLELS

While we welcomed in 1995, it seems that we welcomed in a few pests as well. The conservative elements in North America are slowly re-emerging. Axworthy is trying to raise tuition and cut social services here in Canada. Down in the US., Gingrich and his merry band of Republicans are trying to destroy two years of hard work by the Clintons.

With their re-introduction into

the hallowed halls of government, they have brought with them an agenda with priorities such as re-evaluating the gun control law and making the poor pay for the deficit. It would seem that there are more important issues here, like feeding and housing the homeless, getting jobs for the unemployed, and educating the youth.

## Specifically what does the rise in the Right mean for queers?

Here in Canada, the prospects for legislation against hate crimes and discrimination based on sexual orientation are slim.

The Chrétien government has decided to delay the passage of Bill C-41, that would increase penalties against hate crimes, and the amendment to the Canadian Human Rights Act that would prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Justice Minister Allan Rock says that "the commitment remains. It's unchanged. But I don't know when that bill will be presented. I really don't know."

Down in the US., Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, and his extreme right wing cohorts, are trying to make life even more miserable for queers. According to the Human Rights Campaign Fund, Gingrich made an agreement with Lou Sheldon, an extremist from the Traditional Values Coalition who is infamous for advocating that all HIV positive people should be sent to concentration camps, to hold anti-queer hearings.

The Traditional Values Coalition and Sheldon are also notorious for

promoting discrimination against queers. Sheldon has personally pushed to cut all federal funding to public schools that educate students about AIDS, have counselling to prevent teen suicide, programs to prevent queer bashing, and/or are sympathetic to queer youths.

Queers aren't the only targets of the Right. The poor, the unemployed, women, students, people of colour and First Nations are all under attack. The conservative element has orchestrated a systematic attack on each group and thus far has been successful in dividing us so we can't take a unified stand.

Let's just look at the Axworthy reforms, the planned "reforms" would cut social programs and raise tuitions, yet students couldn't even get together completely on this issue to fight it. Nick Benedict, in an effort to advance his own personal agenda, tried to pull Student Society out of any commitments to strike.

Student Society, led by Benedict, is among those trying to divide the student movement by founding CASA (Canadian Alliance of Student Associations) instead. Incidentally Benedict is in Fredericton right now doing this, having received the go

ahead from Student Council last Thursday.

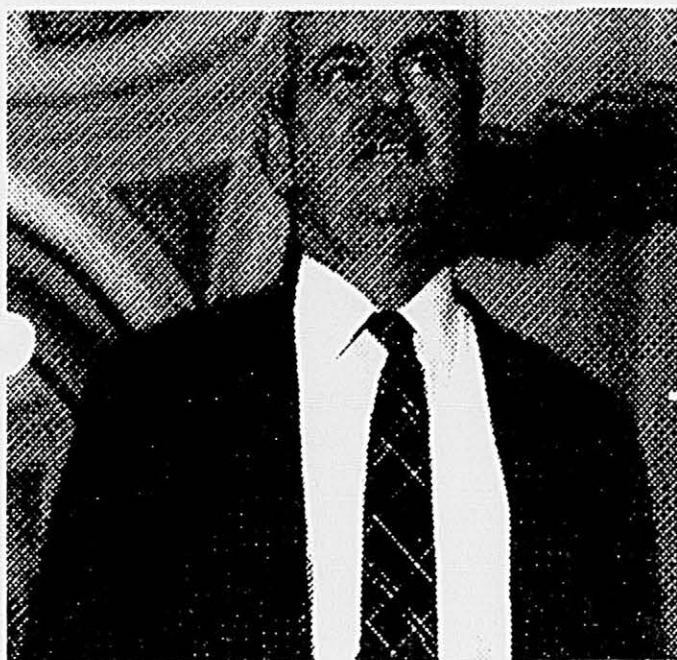
It would seem that the Right has the complete plan to eliminate the "undesirables" of society, but we should not overestimate them. If they were so incredibly organized, I would not be able to write this now. What is important is that we unite.

The student movement, housing reform, unemployment, all these issues and more are interconnected into a greater whole. By not taking a unified stance on all of them, we stand the risk of losing it all.

The next few years are going to be chaotic at best for minority and marginalized groups. We have a long fight ahead of us. I think Lani Ka'ahumanu, writing in the bisexual magazine *Anything That Moves*, puts it best:

"In this time of chaos, we have more opportunities to be heroes. Not super heroes that don't make mistakes... but heroes who are not afraid of making mistakes, and learning from them. Heroes who appreciate the heroism of other peoples' lives when they are living out their truths... But what we forget sometimes, is that those heroes are you and me."

## of the right agenda



Collins creates an important personal financial connection between himself and Murdoch, it is not surprising that he is pushing to have the ban on foreign ownership of broadcast licenses lifted. In this case there is ample evidence to conclude that corporate influence is determining government policy.

It is equally troubling that Gingrich has built his career on criticizing the ethics of other politicians. During the late 1980's, Gingrich forced the resignation of then Speaker of the House Jim Wright. At issue was a \$12,000 book deal and an old oil investment that Mr. Wright had made. As early as 1987, contrary to the advice of his fellow Republicans, Gingrich began attacking Wright. He eventually forced an investigation of Wright by the House ethics committee leading to Mr. Wright's resignation in the spring of 1989.

Mr. Gingrich has been quick to point out all the ethical questions regarding his opponents he can raise. Yet he has resisted calls for an inquiry into his book deal and has attacked those who have criticized him.

To its credit the House Republican leadership has passed a long overdue Accountability bill which will protect the rights of labourers employed by Congress. It will also give them benefits under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, and the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993. These employees have also gained the right to collective bargaining.

The Republican "revolution" is beginning to falter less than a month after it has begun. The party that appeared so unified during the elections is already showing signs of major schisms. Although some of the Republicans' agenda will most likely not be passed, they have the votes needed to pass most of their conservative proposals. Unfortunately, Canada is heading in the same direction. The passage of NAFTA has had both economic and political repercussions. With the US adopting conservative economic policies which will utterly wipe out its social programs, it will only be a matter of time before Canada does the same.

## The Contract

## With America: ten commandments?

*The centerpiece of the Republican electoral strategy was the Contract With America. Written by Newt Gingrich, the Contract is the legislative framework for the Republicans' first 100 days in power. Composed of ten conservative legislative proposals and signed by almost all the Republican members of Congress, it was meant to tell voters what direction the republicans thought the United States ought to be taking. The contract contains the following proposals:*

- *The Fiscal Responsibility Act:* The passage of a balanced budget/tax limitation amendment and line item veto power for the President.

- *The Taking Back Our Streets Act:* Focus on longer prison sentences; strengthen the death penalty; cut money from the previous crime bill that was allocated for social programs aimed at reducing crime and use the money to finance prison construction.

- *The Personal Responsibility Act:* A bill that would prohibit young mothers from receiving welfare benefits and would deny increased benefits to mothers on welfare who have more children. It would also cut federal spending on welfare programs and end benefits after two years.

- *The Family Reinforcement Act:* This would bolster enforcement of child support payments between divorced parents, enact stricter laws against child pornography, give parents greater rights in their children's

education, create tax incentives for adoption, and provide tax credits for families with elderly dependents.

- *The American Dream Restoration Act:* Provide a \$500 per child tax credit and repeal any marriage penalties in the tax code.

- *The National Security Restoration Act:* Raise defense spending, allocate greater resources for anti-missile programs, and prohibit US troops from being placed under UN command.

- *The Senior Citizens Fairness Act:* Raise the Social Security earnings limit; repeal the 1993 tax increases on Social Security benefits; provide tax incentives for private long term care insurance.

- *The Job Creation And Wage Enhancement Act:* Create incentives for small business and cut the index capital gains tax.

- *Common Sense Legal Reform Act:* Limit punitive damages in civil lawsuits and reform product liability laws.

- *The Citizen Legislature Act:* A term limits bill that would limit senators to two six year terms and House members to three or six two year terms.

ration, based in Australia. Foreign ownership of broadcast licenses is a violation of federal telecommunications regulations. However, Murdoch, an American citizen, claims that he personally owns Fox. If NBC proves that Murdoch's News Corporation owns Fox, Murdoch will lose control of Fox and billions in profits.

Although Gingrich has announced that he will not accept the advance, he is still in a position to collect millions in royalties from the sale of the books. Considering that Gingrich's book deal with Harper-



# Generating accessibility



DAILY PHOTO BY TAMMY SHACHTER

## MELISSA REDMOND, ISABELLE PICARD AND RICK GOLDMAN OF PROJECT GENESIS ENCOURAGE IMMIGRANTS TO SEEK THEIR LEGAL RIGHTS TO WELFARE

Welfare recipients are often the last to know about laws that affect them. Information about the system is even less accessible if you are an immigrant, and speak neither English nor French. Immigrants do not often know that under existing laws they can receive welfare benefits. Last Tuesday Côte-des-Neiges community organization Project Genesis, held an informational forum to discuss legal rights to welfare for immigrants whose contracted sponsors

have withdrawn their sponsorship. Under law, a Canadian citizen may sponsor an immigrant to come to Canada. This sponsor must financially support the immigrant for ten years. In Québec, a conjugal sponsor need only provide financial support for three years. Problems arise, however, when sponsors are either no longer able to provide financial support for these immigrants, or no longer willing to continue legal sponsorship.

## GROUP HELPS IMMIGRANTS CLAIM THEIR RIGHTS TO WELFARE

In many cases, when the sponsor rescinds financial support, immigrants are left to fend for themselves in an unfamiliar situation, and are often unable to feed and house themselves.

The forum's primary objective was to assure immigrants who no longer receive assistance from their sponsors that they are eligible for welfare benefits.

"The major problem is that most immigrants aren't aware that they are eligible to even receive welfare... and if they are aware, they don't receive encouragement to seek welfare," says Project Genesis representative Isabelle Picard.

Using scenarios and role playing, Picard and Rick Goldman, Project Genesis, volunteers reviewed the proper procedures for obtaining entitlements from the government. The procedure includes a five step process of applying for benefits, an interview with a welfare agent, receiving legal documentation from a lawyer, sending this verification to the welfare department, and, finally, acquiring the necessary financial assistance. Because the Québec welfare

office (CTQ) does not offer informational sessions about welfare entitlements, welfare rights groups such as Project Genesis have dedicated their resources to informing immigrants of their social rights.

Another problem which came up during the forum, was the hostility sometimes encountered when immigrants exercise their legal rights to welfare.

"The welfare system doesn't want people to collect welfare. It saves [the government] money when people don't collect," said forum moderator and McGill Social Work student Melissa Redmond.

One method of intimidation which welfare agents often use is to

ask if the immigrant is willing to take their sponsor to court in order to receive rightful benefits. Immigrants often believe that they will actually have to prosecute an ailing or troubled relative who genuinely cannot continue sponsorship. Immigrants aren't told that most sponsorship cases never even reach court.

The only cases which do reach court are those in which the sponsor is financially able to support the immigrant but no longer wants to abide by the legal contract.

To avoid this manipulation by agents, Project Genesis emphasizes that applicants for welfare should declare they are "prepared to exercise full recourse" against their sponsor. This approach will ensure that the immigrant will be taken seriously in his or her request to receive entitlements.

For more information on welfare benefits for immigrants, or information on welfare rights in general, please call Project Genesis at 738-2036. Project Genesis offers free and multilingual services; they also have a legal aid office to offer assistance.

We need PHOTOS, DRAWINGS, and EDITORS for the **BLACK HISTORY MONTH** Special Issue.

Due Date January 31. Come by the Daily Office, B-03

BY COURTNEY LITTIE

## Events

Today

•LBGM Coordinating Committee meeting in the LBGM office at 17h30. Also the Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay Visible Minorities Discussion Group will be having a meeting at 19h00 in Shatner 423.

•Shakti will be having a meeting at 16h30 at the QPIRG office, 3647 University.

•McGill's Anthropology Speakers Series presents Prof. Christine Jourdan who will speak on "Objects of Desire: Consumption of Objects in the Solomon Islands" from 12h30 to 14h00 in Leacock 738.

•Political Science Students' Association will be selling tickets for a trip to the Québec City Winter Carnival on Feb 3-5th. The cost is \$75 for 2 nights at Radisson and transportation. Sign up in the Arts Lobby all week. For info call 398-4800.

•Interested in practical development NGO experience in MALAWI or ZIMBABWE? Contact WUSC at 284-0609 for more info. 4th year and graduate students only. Check WUSC office, Shatner 428 for applications.

•Latitudes, the McGill Journal of Developing Areas Studies is accepting submissions of interdisciplinary, undergraduate papers relating to developing area issues. Submit two copies of your paper to the Latitudes' mailbox

in the Shatner Bldg. If your paper is selected, you'll be published in an international journal by March. The deadline is Jan 31st. Call 279-5413 for more info.

•Newman Book Sale will be selling books on Theology, Literature, Art, Philosophy, etc. from 12h00 to 19h00 at the Newman Centre, 3484 Peel. For more info call 398-4106

•Erskine and American United Church and the United Church Heritage Trust Fund present a Thrift Shop every Monday from 10h00 to 16h00 at 3407 du Musée. Proceeds go to the United Church Archives and the Erskine and American United Church.

•The Yellow Door Elderly Project needs volunteers to accompany seniors on appointments. We are also looking for dog walker's to help a senior citizen in the McGill Ghetto. For info call 398-6243.

Tomorrow

•GROUP ACTION general meeting to discuss course evaluations, AIDS Awareness Week, racial harassment policy, etc. All welcome at 18h00 at 550 Sherbrooke, room 1175. For info call Lisa at 287-9677 or Konrad at 284-5324.

•McGill's History Dept. presents Prof. Gershon Hundert, who will speak about "The Jews in a Polish Private town: The Case of Opatow in the Eighteenth Century" at 16h00 in the Thompson House, 3650 McTavish. All Welcome

•McGill Taiwanese Students' Association will be celebrating Chinese New Year and will have a table in the Leacock lobby. Come down from 10h00 to 14h30 and have your name written in Chinese and find out your horoscope for the year of the Pig.

Wednesday

•LBGM Bi Group meeting in the Women's Union, Shatner 423 (men and women welcome) at 17h30.

•McGill's Centre for Applied Family Studies and the School of Social Work are sponsoring a seminar by Florence Dobson on "Prescription Drug Abuse and Alcohol Abuse by the Elderly" from 14h30 to 16h00 in the Wendy Patrick Room of Wilson Hall, 3506 University. For more info call 398-5286.

•The Yellow Door presents Mike Burns with Toby Kinsella who will present "Traditional Irish story telling and music" at 20h00. Admission is \$3.

Thursday

•LBGM's weekly Women's Discussion Group will be meeting at 18h00 in Shatner 423. All women welcome.

•McGill Outing Club presents the 19th Annual Banff Film Festival at 19h30 in the Palmer Howard Theatre in McIntyre Medical Bldg, 3655 Drummond, 6th Floor. For info call 398-6817.

•McGill Dept of Epidemiology and Biostatistics presents Dr. Pierre

Tousignant, who will speak on "Treatment of sleep apnea: Impact on quality of life and cost utility ratio". At 12h30 in Purvis Hall.

•The Yellow Door presents Kevin Bushell and The New Life Poets. Show starts at 20h00 and admission is \$2.

Friday

•LBGM's Coming Out group will be meeting in the basement of the United Theological College (3521 University) at 17h30. Everyone is welcome. Also there is the general discussion group that will be meeting at the same location at 19h00.

•Karen Dubinsky of Queen's Dept. of History will be speaking on "The Construction of Gender in Post-War Canada: Honeymooning at Niagara Falls" at the Thompson House at 14h00.

•The Yellow Door presents Bare Bones, with Boaz Percewicz opening. The show starts at 20h00 and admission is \$2.

Saturday

•The South East Asian Students' Association of McGill will be holding its annual Asian Cultural Concert at 18h00. The show will be comprised of 10 performances. Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$12 at the door. For more info call 842-7517 or 848-0528

•Walksafe is sponsoring Action Self-Defense, a course taught by

women, for women. The classes will be held on Feb 4th and 5th from 9h00 to 17h00 in Shatner B108. There is limited space. The course is \$40 w/McGill ID and \$50 for others. Sign up outside the Walksafe Office, Shatner 415 or call Nadine or Liza at 398-2498.

•Umoja Black History Month Alliance and the N.D.G. Black Community Association are sponsoring a huge event, "Free Your Mind, Return to the Source". The highlight will be a talk by Dr. Asa G. Hillard, professor of Urban Education at Georgia State University. This will take place at the Loyola Concert Hall of Concordia University on Sherbrooke St. in N.D.G. and begins at 20h00. For more info call Jamal Johnson at 747-1591, David Shelton at 481-3598, or Balt Tul Mal at 938-1576.

Next Week

•Concordia's Women's Centre is offering a series of workshops which explore Women and Safer Sex. On Feb 6th, "Self-Esteem and Safer Sex". Feb 20th, "Body Image and Safer Sex". Mar 6th, "Sexuality and Safer Sex". All seminars are from 19h00 to 21h00 in the Concordia's Women's Centre, 2020 MacKay, downstairs. All women welcome.



**Ads may be placed through the Daily Business Office, Room B-07, University Centre, 9h00-14h00. Deadline is 14h00, two working days prior to publication (e.g. Tuesday, 14h00 for Thursday's McGill Daily).**

**McGill Students & Staff** (with valid ID): \$4.00 per day, 4 or more consecutive days, \$3.50 per day. **General Public:** \$5.00 per day, or \$4.25 per day for 4 or more consecutive days. **Extra charges may apply, and prices do not include applicable GST (7%) or PST (6.5%).** Full payment should accompany your advertising order and may be made by cash or by personal cheque (for amounts over \$20 only). For more information, please visit our office in person or call 398-6790 - WE CANNOT TAKE CLASSIFIED ADS OVER THE PHONE.

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**LBGM discussion grps.** Wed. 5:30 Bi-Group Shatner 423. Thurs. 7PM women's grp. Shatner 423. Fri. coming-out 5:30 & General 7PM, 3521 University.

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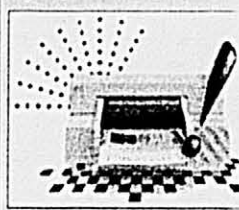
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10h00 Variété  
11h00 Chanteurs, Acteurs  
13h00 Danseurs

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Student Union Ballroom  
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10:00 Variety Performers  
11:00 Singers, Actors  
1:00 Dancers

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